

For immediate release
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USADF to fund \$3.0 Million Post-Ebola Food Security Initiative in Liberia

Investing in local capacity to meet urgent food security requirements

WASHINGTON - USADF today announced a \$3.0 million, three-year Post-Ebola Food Security Initiative to build local capacity to meet food security requirements in Liberia, following today's meeting between President Obama and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The initiative will complement the work of USAID's Feed the Future program and the work of other U.S. government agencies by focusing on four regions of the country which have been the hardest hit by Ebola – Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Margibi. USADF will directly fund local producer organizations and provide technical support to local service providers.

"The tragedy of Ebola lies not just in the loss of human life and suffering, but in devastated communities in Liberia and across West Africa. Addressing food shortages is an urgent need now as we help Liberians recover, and we have the ability to move quickly to provide assistance," said Jack Leslie, Chairman of USADF.

USADF will strengthen producer groups by improving governance, promoting financial transparency, improving agricultural productivity, and increasing access to rural credit. These efforts will empower local communities to better meet their food security requirements. Funding will also be available to support off-grid energy development throughout the country – addressing a national priority that is essential for all sectors of the economy.

USADF plans to launch the initiative in the coming weeks, drawing upon agency FY 2015 funding.

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